

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for controlling the opening of a cover over a grilling surface, comprising:

a motor coupled to the cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between the cover and the grilling surface.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a counterweight attached at the rear of the cover.

3. The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising a remote control for transmitting control signals to said motor.

4. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said remote control transmits start and stop signals to said motor.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said motor operates only during the transmission of control signals to said motor.

6. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein said remote control transmits signals to control flow of a combustible fuel.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said apparatus is removable from the cover.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said motor is battery powered.

9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said motor stops movement of the cover at a point within a full range of the cover movement.

10. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said grilling surface is a charcoal briquette fueled barbecue grill.

11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said grilling surface is a combustible gas fueled barbecue grill.

12. A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a grilling surface;

a cover that provides an adjustable opening over said grilling surface; and

a motor coupled to said cover, said motor operating to adjust the opening between said cover and said grilling surface.

13. The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising a remote control that transmits a control signal to said motor.

14. The cooking apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said remote control transmits start and stop signals to said motor.

15. The cooking apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said motor operates only during the transmission of control signals to said motor.

16. The cooking apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said remote control transmits signals to control flow of a combustible fuel.

17. The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, further comprising a counterweight attached at the rear of the cover.

18. The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor is removable from the grilling surface.

19. The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor is battery powered.

20. The cooking apparatus of Claim 12, wherein said motor stops movement of the cover at a point within a full range of the cover movement.

21. A cooking apparatus, comprising:

a grilling surface;

a cover means for providing an adjustable opening over said grilling surface;

and

a cover movement means for opening and closing said cover over said grilling surface.

22. The cooking apparatus of Claim 21, further comprising a remote control means for transmitting a control signal to said cover movement means.

23. A method of controlling the opening of a cover over a grilling surface, comprising:

causing a motor to operate upon receiving a first signal; said motor coupled to the cover such that operation of said motor causes an adjustment in the placement of the cover over the grilling surface;

causing said motor to stop operating upon receiving a second signal.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein activating a first control generates said first signal.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein releasing said first control generates said second signal.

26. The method of Claim 24, wherein activating a second control generates said second signal.

27. An apparatus for attaching a motor to a cover of a grilling surface, comprising:  
a motor support beam having an adjustable length, said motor support beam comprising a motor attachment surface for attachment to the motor and at least one base attachment surface for attachment to a support base of the grilling surface.

28. The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a counterweight having an cover attachment surface for attachment of said counterweight to the cover of the grilling surface.

29. The apparatus of Claim 28, further comprising a coupling rod for attaching the motor to said counterweight

30. The apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising a coupling rod for coupling the motor to the cover of the grilling surface.

31. The apparatus of Claim 27, wherein said motor support beam comprises a first portion insertable into a second portion.

32. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said first portion has a threaded exterior portion, and said second portion has a threaded interior portion, the length of said motor beam being determined by turning said first portion with respect to said second position.

33. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein said motor support beam further comprises a spring member that presses said first portion away from said second portion.

34. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein at least one of said first portion and said second portion has a plurality of holes, the length of said motor beam being determined by inserting a pin through one of said plurality of holes.

35. The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the motor suspends from said motor support beam.